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Security Council

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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 5 November 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and, in reference to the latter's note concerning operative paragraph 4 of the resolution, which calls upon States to present a first report on its implementation, has the honour to submit herewith the response of the concerned authority of the State of Qatar, as requested (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 5 November 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

[Original: Arabic]

1. The competent authorities of the State of Qatar are pleased to submit the following report of Qatar to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004):

(a) The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery represents, without a doubt, a threat to international peace and security; hence the importance of the multilateral instruments aimed at eradicating or preventing the spread of such weapons. Qatar has signed, ratified and acceded to those instruments, which have acquired the force of law pursuant to article 43 of the Amended Provisional Constitution of the State of Qatar following their promulgation and publication in the official gazette. Indeed, on 29 January 1989 Qatar issued an instrument of accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and on 6 July 1989 it issued Decree No. 38/1989, approving the accession of the State of Qatar to the Treaty, which thereby acquired the force of law. On 24 September 1996 Qatar signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; on 30 December 1996 it issued the related instrument of ratification; and on 8 December 1999 it issued Decree No. 54/1999, ratifying the Treaty, which thus acquired the force of law. On 17 March 1975 Qatar issued an instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and on 4 July 2001 it issued Decree No. 32/2001 on the ratification of the Convention, which thus acquired the force of law. On 13 August 1997 Qatar issued an instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and on 25 August 2003 it issued Decree No. 58/2003 on the ratification of that Convention, which thus acquired the force of law pursuant to article 24 of the Amended Provisional Constitution;

(b) In addition to the national measures adopted by the State for the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, the Council of Ministers, on 4 October 2004, issued, in accordance with the relevant international conventions and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), its decision No. 26 of 2004 on the establishment of a National Weapons-Ban Committee. The Committee's mandate specifically includes the following tasks: the offering of advice to competent governmental agencies on all questions pertaining to the ban on weapons of all types, including nuclear, biological and traditional weapons; the study of draft international conventions on the weapons ban and the expression of opinions on the suitability of the State's acceding thereto; the determination of the goals contained in international conventions concerning the ban on weapons of all types ratified or acceded to by the State; the proposal of the necessary legislation and measures for the implementation of such international conventions; the review of national legislation on weapons and on illegal trade therein and the proposal of means for the further development and amendment of that legislation; the preparation of reports on the weapons ban which are to be submitted by the State to international bodies; and the carrying out of the necessary consciousness-raising

programmes regarding the purport of the international conventions on the weapons ban;

(c) The National Weapons-Ban Committee is currently studying national legislation on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction to prohibit natural and artificial persons from developing or producing chemical weapons or obtaining them in any other manner; stockpiling, possessing, acquiring or preserving such weapons or transporting them, either directly or indirectly, to any place; using or attempting to use chemical weapons; carrying out any military preparations for the use of such weapons; or assisting, encouraging or abetting any person whomsoever in any manner whatsoever in carrying out any activity proscribed, under the Convention, for States parties. The draft legislation also provides for the infliction of penalties including imprisonment, fines or both on anyone who commits such forbidden acts, fails to provide the National Weapons-Ban Committee with requested information or intentionally provides incorrect information in connection with the implementation of the Convention.

2. The action taken by Qatar has been and is being taken in accordance with Qatar's international and regional commitments regarding the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery in order to provide a deterrent to such activities and to prevent and combat them with all its powers and executive bodies, in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), with a view to the preservation of international peace and security.